

The Daily Gazetteer.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24. 1740.

NUM. 1641.

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HERE is nothing more commonly asserted by such as oppose the Present Administration, than that the Power of the CROWN is now greater than ever; and that, consequently, we ought to be extremely cautious of doing any Thing to increase its Power, and no less vigilant in laying

hold of any Opportunities that offer of abridging it. This is one of the Corner Stones of their Patriotism, as they themselves confess; and it is purely on this Direction that they set up themselves for a Country Party. It is most certainly a very wicked Insinuation, that there really is any distinct and opposite Interest between the King and the Country, our Sovereign and his People. There are only Two Sorts of Knaves who have ever attempted to maintain such a Distinction for their own Private Ends, viz. Evil Ministers and False Patriots. Some who were about King Charles I. persuaded him to give a little too much into this Distinction, by which they attained Honours and For

merit, and in King William III's Time, some Pre

ferred Patriots revived this Notion, to render them

more considerable, and to extort Money from the

Ministry, before they would suffer the Nation's Bu

ses to be done in Parliament; where, by Vicious

Declamations, and loud Pretences to Extraordinary

Humility, they had gained a considerable Ascendant.

But whatever our Modern Patriots may pretend,

there is no Man who is tolerably acquainted with the

Law and History of this Kingdom, that can believe

what they alledge, or can avoid seeing on the slightest

Comparison, that our Ancient Kings had by very far

greater Powers than any of our Princes since the Re

volution. It would take up a great deal of Room to

prove this at large, and it would also lead us into some

Inquiries, of too dark and too obscure a Nature for a

Page of this Kind. In order therefore to clear up

this Point, without entering into deeper Matters, I

shall state Two or Three material Cases, in which

the Power of former Princes will appear, and the Ina

bility, at the same time, of Later Kings. By these the

Reader will see how ill-founded these Assertions are;

and I shall then make a few Observations, in or

der to demonstrate what evil Consequences may attend

us too readily swallowing at any Time such Sug

gestion, and running thereby into the hasty ill-grounded

Valuities of the Crown, which is one of the greatest

Inconveniences to which our Constitution is liable.

In the first Place then, with respect to Parliaments,

our Ancient Kings were at Liberty to call, and dissolve,

them, when and how they pleased; and tho' it has

been lately suggested, that the keeping the same Par

liament several Years was a modern Practice, and in

roduced by Charles II. yet it is certain, That Henry

VIII. kept one Parliament many Years, and prorog'd

them, as is now the Custom. They had a very high

and apparent Influence in both Houses, as is evident

from the Steps taken by the same Henry VIII. when

ever he inclined to have any Law passed, by sending

for the Speaker and the Members, and haranguing

them in an extraordinary Manner, which was also

gratified by his Daughter Elizabeth. On the other

hand, they increased by Charters, as they thought

proper, the Number of Boroughs, and, consequently,

the Number of Members; and, upon Petition, they

also discharged Boroughs from the Duty of sending

Members. As to influencing Elections, the Crown had

many Powers which it now wants, and they used

them very freely; as is clear from the Journals extant

of Parliaments in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Next, as to the Revenue of the CROWN. It con

fined in such Articles as gave the Prince much more

Influence on the People than he has now. The Lands

called Crown Lands, not only brought in a Revenue,

but also provided for a Number of Officers, all imme

diately dependents on the Sovereign, and who had, by

Virtue of their Offices, great Interests in their Counties

Wards, and Liveries, was another Branch, not only

of Profit but Power, and it was so much a Part of the

Constitution, that it could not be taken away but b

the Crown's Consent. A Power of exchanging Lands

with Bishops, was also of much Benefit to some Reigns,

particularly to Queen Elizabeth; who, as appears in

Steppe's Annals, and elsewhere, compelled many Pre

lates to make hard Bargains, and dealt severely enough with such as had any Concerns with her Revenue. In a word, If the Crown was then less Wealthy it was more Independent; and whenever the King or his Ministers were frugal, and inclined to live upon good Terms with their Neighbours, there was no absolute or necessary Occasion for calling Parliaments. On the contrary, they had sometimes Money enough to keep Troops on foot, without asking any Aid of the People; and when they thought this necessary, they cared as little for their Consents. Henry VII. left near Two Millions behind him; and yet he had great Troubles, and loved Building. This shews, that according to those Times the Revenue of the Crown was very considerable; and Henry VIII. added so much thereto, that he erected a new Court to take Cognizance of his Augmentations.

In respect to Civil Affairs, our Kings anciently govern'd absolutely enough. They sometimes stay'd Causes in the Courts in Westminster-Hall. They sometimes drew Causes before themselves in their Privy-Council. They made Judges when they pleas'd, and when they pleas'd they unmade them again. As to the Laws themselves, they exercis'd a great Power over them: They by Non Obstante's weaken'd them so far, that they were violated without Punishment every Day. Thus by a special Dispensation they permitted a Person to execute his Office as a Justice of Peace in his own County, tho' by a Statute, he who did this, was to forfeit an Hundred Pounds. In our Days this Act being found inconvenient, the Lawyers procured it to be repealed, and did not trust to the Old Custom of Non Obstante. Cities and Boroughs held their Charters very precarious, and were often found to pay roundly for their Privileges; and as to Trade, we may guess in how settled a State it stood, when we learn, that King Henry VI. having borrowed Ten thousand Pounds of the Cardinal of Beaufort, assigned the Customs of London and Southampton for Re-payment, and intended to turn the Course of Trade to these Two Ports. On the other hand, they borrow'd when they thought proper of their Subjects by Privy Seal, and paid them nobody knew when. Henry VIII. having raised a large Sum in this Manner, his Parliament (o oblige him) declared the Securities he gave void; because he had applied the Money, as they said, to the Service of the Publick. This curious Passage we owe to Bishop Burnet, in his History of the Reformation, our Printed Statutes own no such thing.

These, as I before repeated, are only a few Examples and occasional Observations, thrown together to illustrate this Point. If one was to enter methodically on the Subject, the Task would not be hard to join innumerable Instances of the like Kind to these. Neither are we to suppose these are weaken'd, much less contradicted by Instances of another Nature during these Times, because, when our Kings wanted Power, then they submitted to own their Subjects had Rights; but still the Prerogative retain'd its Virtue, and was exerted without Scruple whenever the constraining Force was withdrawn. As to the Remark of some Writers, that our greatest Princes were most favourable to our Liberties, I doubt we shall not find it so solid and well founded as we could wish. All our martial Monarchs, and these are those hinted at, were on account of their Wars oblig'd to keep fair with the People. They were always poor and indigent, and whatever Confessions they made as to Liberty came at a good Price; but as we did not raise the Money, we admire the thing done, and praise that Moderation in our Princes which our Ancestors paid for.

In our Days the Cafes are plain, the Crown neither has, nor claims any such Powers. In Parliament Affairs, no Administration hath ever attempted any thing like what was done in the best Reigns before the Revolution. The King cannot now erect Boroughs, nor by having large Estates in Land in their Neighbourhood, influence their Elections. He cannot continue Parliaments to Henry VIII. or Charles II. did. Those Rights exercis'd heretofore by the Crown or great Officers of State are now vested in the Houses themselves. The Revenue is fix'd by Act of Parliament, and in every new Reign they may consider these Necessities of the Crown de novo. All the Exchanging of Bishops and Lands is now restrain'd. The removing Caunes, or laying them, is never heard off. Judges are no longer at the Will of the King, but of the People. All

Loans by Privy Seals are now impracticable: And the Prerogative still is, and by the Nature of our Constitution must be a Part of the Law, yet no body will pretend to say it is above Law; which, however, in the Memory of Man, was an Opinion that passed for Law. It is at this time, I mean the Prerogative, grown perfectly harmless, and whenever we see its Effects, even the keenest Enemies of Monarchy must own they are *benign*, and always favourable to the Subject.

One cannot sure be said to assume too much, after what has been advanced, and is by every one known to be Fact, when one alledges that this Outcry about the Power in the Crown is very ill founded. The Question is not, whether there be not still great Power in the Crown, but whether the Powers in the Crown be greater or less than heretofore? If they were greater, or even so great as before the Revolution, they might by the Application of evil Ministers be render'd dangerous to our Liberties. But as they are now so exceedingly retrench'd as in the Course of this whole Reign, there never was an Exertion of the Prerogative over pretended to be prejudicial to the Subject, why should there be now a louder Clamour set up than ever was against the Royal Authority in its most dangerous Extent? Such a Conduct is a little unaccountable, it tends to insipre the People with a never-dying Jealousy of Kings, and provides for an hereditary Dilatory-ity to Princes, let them govern how they will. The common Sort are no Judges of the Reason of Things, much less of the Reason of such Things. A Declaration against Power is sufficient to inflame them, and the most unfounded Suggestions in favour of what is called Liberty, will be always too easily believed.

The Inference usually made from such seditious Pretences, That the more Power is taken from the Crown, the more easily and happily the Commons must live; this Inference, I say, is false and foolish; and the Commons may readily be convinced of it, if they will but consult Experience, a better Tutor than the Orators amongst the Patriots. Experience will tell them, that whatever Evils oppress them spring either from their own Conduct or the Conduct of their Betters, not at all from the Power of the Crown. Was it the Prerogative that pusshed the Weavers in the West into Tumults and Rebellion? If they rose without Reason, was it not their own Faults? And if they had any Reason, could it be referred to Oppression by other Disturbances, with equal Reason. It is not now against Kings and Ministers, properly, that the People struggle, but against the Laws, against the Constitution, and against all Government in general: an Injustice, not that at the present Method of Ruling is too severe, but rather, that it is too much relaxed. That this is truly the Case, I shall plainly make appear in my next, by considering the Mischief which may ensue to the People by too great INCREASING of the Powers in the CROWN.

R. FREEMAN.

Madrid, Sept. 5. N.S.
THE Talk of a Change that is to be in the Military is reviv'd, and as the Duke of Medina excus'd himself from accepting the Office of Prime Minister when 'twas offer'd him, by saying, that he had not Abilities enough for a Post of such Importance, 'tis not doubted but it will be confer'd at length upon the Cardinal Molina, and if so, all the World is persuad'd that Cardinal Acquaviva will be declar'd Inquisitor General. The great Junto continues to meet at St. Ildefonso, but is very much divided: As since the Departure of the Ferrol Squadron for the West Indies it would be Nonsense to threaten Ireland or Scotland with an Invasion any longer, the late Duke of Ormond, who was only sent for him to give a Jealousy to the English, set out the 2d Inst. for Avignon, having had his Arrests paid to him, amounting to 20000 Pieces of Eight.

Venice, Sept. 17. The Turkish Ambassador having resolv'd to take all his Retinue with him when he paid a Visit to the French Ambassador, the Council of War gave him to understand, that the establish'd Ceremonial would not allow him to take more than a Dozen. This Minister has had a Visit from no other Foreign Ambassador, nor indeed has he notify'd his Arrival to any but the French. On the 13th, he went out for the first time, with 150 Persons in his Retinue,

Retinue, and his ordinary Musick playing before him, to the Count d' Oettingen's Garden, which the Court has hire'd for his Diversion, where his Countrymen entertain'd him with Rope-dancing, Tumbling, and several other Performances of the same Taste. The Plague appears again in several Parts of Hungary.

Naples, Sept. 6. This Morning about 4 o'Clock the Queen of the Two-Sicilies was delivered of a Prince. His Sicilian Majesty attended the whole Night, and the Pope's Nuncio, the Ambassador of France, the Envoy of Holland, the Minister of Poland, the Four Secretaries of State, and all the Lords and Ladies of the Bed-chamber, were call'd to be present in the Chamber adjoining to the Queen's, from whence the new-born Infant was brought out immediately by the Marchioness of Sto. Marco, a Roman Lady who is appointed Governess, and shewn to the Company; after which it was baptiz'd by the Name of Mary-Elizabeth.

Dresden, Sept. 7. His Polish Majesty has been pleas'd to translate M. Grebowski, Bishop of Cujava, to the Bishoprick of Varmis; by which Preferment he likewise becomes a titular Prince of the Empire.

FOREIGN PORTS.

Eliz. Sept. 17. N. S. Since my last came in the Ships commanded by the following Masters, viz. On the 14th, John Hollon, from London for Dantick; George Verre, from Lynn for Stockholm: On the 15th, Matthew Peacock, for Hamburg; Robert Smith, for Bristol; both from Dantick; John Doyle, from Peterburgh for Waterford; Robert Peake, from Dantick for Newcastle: On the 16th, Thomas Robertson, from Kirkcaldy for Dantick; Thomas Landisfield, from London for Norcopen; William Wray, from Blyth for Copenhagen: On the 17th, John Reive, from Gfle for Hull.

The Masters bound for the Baltic are fail'd, with a favourable Wind at N. W. which continu'd till this Day, then it turn'd to S. E. The out-bound are all fail'd.

Eliz. Sept. 20. N. S. Since my last came in the Ships commanded by the following Masters; viz. On the 18th, Robert Oliver, from Peterburgh for London; Samuel Coggrave, from Stern for Gottenburgh; Robert Forster, from Narva for London; William Thompson, from London for Peterburgh: On the 19th, Allan Wilson, from Peterburgh for Whitehaven; Timothy Whiney, from Dantick for Newcastle: On the 20th, Anthony Wilkinson, from Liverpool for Dantick.

Those Masters bound for the Baltic are fail'd, the Wind at S. W. The out-bound are detain'd in this Road.

HOME PORTS.

Dublin, Sept. 12. On the 30th ult. arrived the Ben and Betty, Dahl, from Rotterdam: On Sept. 1 the Revolution, Rickey, from Liverpool for Philadelphia: On the 6th, the St. Jean, Shovett's and the Grace of God, Pallow, both from Bourdeaux: On the 9th, the Eagle, Young, from Chester for London. On September the 6th Sailed the Hope, Lamb, for Madeira and Barbados; the Ormond's Success, Brown, for Barbados; the Antigua Packet, Oliver, for Rotterdam: On the 8th, the Providence, Fower, for Drontheim.

Deal, Sept. 22. Wind S. S. W. Remain his Majesty's Ships Roebuck, Chester and Rochester. No other Ship to the Downs.

Arrived

At Dover, the Francis, Samms, from New England in 4 Weeks; the Ann, Arthur, and the Industry, Peace, both from Amsterdam for New York.

LONDON.

A Swedish Ship arriv'd from Algier at Leghorn says the Plague there is now so much abated that not above 7 or 8 Persons die of it in a Day.

A French Ship arriving lately at Leghorn from Dublin, the Master made Oath before the Commissioners of Health, that he had not touch'd at any suspected Place, upon which he was admitted to anchor without any Scruple, but being afterwards so imprudent as to put Letters ashore for the Merchants, from whence it appear'd that he had touch'd at Gibraltar, and had even put some Goods ashore there, he was confis'd with his Men on board, and enjoyn'd to perform a strict Quarantine, after which he will suffer the Sentence to be pass'd on him by the Council of Health, who have accus'd him of a Suit against him.

Capt. Gardner of the Betty and Peggy lately arriv'd at Liverpool from Antigua; which Place he left the 3d of August last, when all was well there.

Yesterday was held a Board of Admiralty, when their Lordships were pleas'd to appoint Mr. Stewart,

Nephew to Admiral Stewart, to be Lieutenant of the Augusta, a 60 Gun Ship lately commission'd.

Mr. Cheliesen the Surgeon is gone to Cambridge to attend Dr. Waterland Master of Magdalen College, who continues dangerously ill of the Mortification in his Toe, insomuch that his Life is despair'd of. He is attended by divers other eminent Surgeons and Physicians.

On Friday last the Rev. Mr. Joseph Sime, M. A. was instituted to the Rectory of Windpyle in the County of Cambridge, void by the Death of the Rev. Mr. Francis Jefferies.

Yesterday Morning several of his Majesty's Coaches, and three Parties of the Life-guards, set out for Harwich, Margate and Gravesend, in order to wait his Majesty's Arrival from Hanover.

Last Monday Night died, at his House at Clapton, Mr. Boone, formerly a very eminent Wine Merchant of this City.

BANK R U P T S.

Robert Brett, of the Parish of St. Mary le Bone, in the County of Middlesex, Brewer.

Thomas Truman, late of Burr-street, in the County of Middlesex, Merchant and Mariner.

Robert Bunduck, of King-street near Tower-hill, in the County of Middlesex, Hair-seller and Chapman.

John Machin, of Newcastle under Liae, in the County of Stafford, Mercer and Draper.

Edward Tiltsley, of Leeds, in the County of York, Confectioner.

High Water this Day	Morning	Evening
at London Bridge,	02 13	02 36

Bank Stock 140 1-half. India 153, 154 to 155 1-half. South Sea 96. Old Annuity 110 3-8ths. New ditto 108 3-8ths. Three per Cent. 99 3-4ths. Seven per Cent. Loan 108 5-8ths. Five per Cent. ditto 90 1-half. Royal Assurance 91 1-half. London Assurance 11 1-half. African 10. India Bonds 31 3s. Premium. Bank Circulation 61 7s. 6d. Prem. Salt Tallies 1-4th to 3 4ths. Prem. English Copper 31 10s. Welsh ditto 15s. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 103. Three per Cent. ditto 94 1-4th. Million Bank 116. Equivalent 112. Lottery Tickets 31. 6d.

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And he shall be like a Tree planted by the Rivers of Water, that bringeth forth his Fruits in his Season. His Leaf also shall not wither. PSALM I.

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